

Serial No. 10/511,250
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P00676WOUS

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 13 and 15. Thus, claims 13 - 32 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Rejection Under Section 112:

Claims 13 - 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the Examiner contending that these claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 13 to clarify that the thermal barrier coating layer and a portion of the masking layer chemically react to form a water soluble layer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 112 rejection.

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 13 - 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Wheat et al. (USPN 6,253,441).

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the limitation that the thermal barrier coating layer applied to the masking layer and a portion of the thermal barrier coating layer and a portion of the masking layer chemically react to form a water soluble layer. As Examiner has noted in the allowable subject matter section of his response, Wheat et al. neither teaches nor suggests a thermal barrier coating chemically reacting with the masking layer which forms a water-soluble layer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

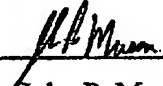
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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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